

JPRS 80695

29 April 1982

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2534

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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EGYPT

GDR GRANTS AID FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

PM071547 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Apr 82 p 8

[Unattributed report: "\$133 Million From GDR For Rural Electrification and Network Renewal in 47 Towns"]

[Text] The GDR Government has agreed to give a loan for financing the Egyptian national program for rural electrification valued at \$33 million in addition to another \$100 million to be utilized in financing the supply of the equipment for rural electrification, the building of 20 bulk-power substations and distribution substations, and the installation of high voltage cables in order to renew and expand the electric power network in 47 towns in al-Daqahliyah Province.

Minister of electricity and energy, Engineer Muhammad Mahir Abazah yesterday had talks with (Van Keeler), GDR deputy minister of energy, on the question of joint cooperation projects between the two countries in the field of energy, particularly the development of the systems for transmission and distribution of electric power and the implementation of the government's program for rural electrification.

The German deputy minister will meet with Engineer 'Abd al-Hammid al-Sayyid, chairman of the Egyptian Electric Authority, Engineer Zahir Zayd, head of the Rural Electrification Authority, and Muhammad al-Safti, first under secretary of the Electricity and Energy Ministry, to discuss details of the loan, which is to be repaid over 15 years at the low interest of 6 percent, and ways to utilize it in developing the rural electrification program and improving the power supply to food production projects, new towns, and industrial and construction projects during the next 3 years.

CSO: 4500/150

EGYPT

BRIEFS

CONSULATES CLOSED IN ECONOMY MOVE--Cair, 10 Apr (AFP)--Egypt will close its consulates in Zurich, Karachi, Barcelona and Houston as an economy measure, the weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper reported here today. Many technical bureaus attached to Egyptian diplomatic missions would also be closed or have their staff reduced, the paper added. Egypt at present has 139 diplomatic missions abroad, employing 470 officials and diplomats excluding ambassadors. [Text] [NC100905 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 10 Apr 82]

CSO: 4500/150

KHAMENEI DEFIANT ON EXECUTIONS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 pp 6-8

[Text] President Ali Khamene'i has again defended the executions of young people in Iran on the grounds that their activities were criminal and they should be executed under Islamic law. He said this in an interview with Nasira Sharma printed in this month's issue of the London-based MIDDLE EAST magazine.

In reply to a question which postulated that people were disturbed about the executions, the president said nobody understood the regime's real problems. They were ignorant of their achievements and were not aware of the brighter aspects of the revolution. But people should not be blamed, as the press distorted news everywhere.

"The Islamic republic has pardoned many," he said, "and taught them Islamic morals and exercised Islamic spiritual influence. But there are some who kill, burn public buses, damage public property and organise armed demonstrations. We feel that they are criminals and should be executed under Islamic law."

The most interesting questions and answers in the printed interview were:

Sharma: Your revolution is of great interest to the world but people are becoming disturbed about the executions, especially of the young.

Khamene'i: Nobody understands our real problems. They are ignorant of our achievements and are not aware of the brighter aspects of the revolution. They should not be blamed, as the press distorts news everywhere. The Islamic Republic has pardoned many and taught them Islamic morals and exercised Islamic spiritual influence. But there are some who kill, burn public buses, damage public property, and organise armed demonstrations. We feel that they are criminals and should be executed under Islamic law.

Q. Could you tell me about Iran's foreign policy? Which are Iran's friends and enemies?

A. Our foreign policy is not weak, although our diplomatic activities are less than they should be. We have definite priorities, and we know how our interests are best served. We have divided the world into groups--brotherly countries, friendly countries, neutral countries and enemy countries. Enemies are governments which launch aggression against us and have an anti-Iranian posture. The rest are either brothers, friends or neutral. As to

France, even before (ex-President) Bani-Sadr sought political asylum there, it imposed an economic embargo on us. We do not want to be unfriendly to France. But France has frequently exhibited anti-revolutionary and anti-Iranian intentions by not delivering goods and military hardware and by cooperating with Israel. It is therefore certain that this country is not friendly. It has also supplied arms to our enemy, Iraq. These days French Mirages are being brought down by the Iranian air force.

Q. France is hosting Iranian opposition groups yet the French news agency is operating here while others do not enjoy such facilities. Why?

A. News agencies are free all over the world. But sometimes we have to take a strong view of the activities of some agencies. For example we expelled an American journalist as a symbolic action to show that the U.S. is our real enemy. News agencies are in Iran, including AFP (Agence France-Presse). Very often they distort the news and twist the meaning. They condition news according to their interests, but we allow these to work. We welcome them. It speaks of freedom in our country.

Q. Bani-Sadr dreams of ruling Iran again. How big is his base among the masses, in the armed forces and in government?

A. Many others also have similar aspirations--Aryana, Bakhtiar, Oveissi, Rajavi, and numerous royalists and anti-revolutionaries abroad. Each claims that he will reach Iran in the next two or three months and that he has a big base among Iranians. They have the support of the other nations which are conservative and anti-Iranian. All of them, including Bani-Sadr, Bakhtiar and Rajavi, are getting financial backing from these nations and are being paid to fight us. They have to fabricate false support among the Iranians in order to reassure their benefactors. We know that neither Bani-Sadr nor any other has a base in the army or among the people. If they had, why did they run away from Iran?

Q. The Iran-Iraq war is more than one year old. Are you thinking of ending it so that the country can develop economically?

A. We have no objection to a peaceful solution, but this idea does not strike a chord in the minds of the Iraqi leaders. Peace requires more courage than war and the Iraqi leaders lack it. We are ready for peace, but peace with dignity and honour as well as with definite promises.

Q. Iran is plagued with separatist movements and there are rumours that the Soviet Union has a hand in it.

A. There are many versions. We know the real enemy. Western and American hands are more visible. They are to some extent with Iraq and to some extent with others having similar designs on Iran. We are cautious of such foreign elements and we jealously guard our nation against them.

Q. Iran says anti-revolutionaries are active outside Iran preparing a base for the imperialists, but revolutionary progressive elements like the Mojahedin and Fedayeen are executed daily.

A. These are anti-revolutionaries claiming to be revolutionaries. What is the difference between an old Savak (member) and one who fought against them but is now doing the same against the Islamic Republic? It is strange that you consider revolutionaries those who have links with feudalists in Kurdistan. It is not only the royalists who are anti-revolutionaries but all those who are fighting against the Islamic revolution, whether it is Massoud Rajavi today or Ali Amini, Bakhtiar and Oveissi yesterday. Do not judge them by their labels. Revolutionaries of today may turn out to be anti-revolutionaries of tomorrow."

CSO: 4600/411

MULLAHS' POSSIBLE ACTIONS FOLLOWING MILITARY VICTORY VIEWED

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 pp 1-3

[Text] While the Tehran mullahs appeared temporarily taken aback by the scale of the victory of the armed forces over their Iraqi enemies earlier this week Iranians at home and abroad watched closely for signs of what they intended to do to exploit it.

Would they, many asked, feel they must not give up their advantage and must push on with the war in a bid to force Saddam Hussain out of power in Baghdad? Or would they feel that having forced Saddam to lose so much face and admit at least partial defeat they could now sit down and argue out a peace settlement from a position of strength?

The mullahs' initial reaction was subdued, with Ayatollah Khomeyni and his chief aides all assuring the world that Iran did not want to go to war with anybody and that it had no designs on Iraqi territory. It only wanted every Iraqi soldier off Iranian soil. Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani added the firm rider that everybody must see that the Islamic republic was a fact--a reflection of the euphoria that the Iranian forces' achievements set off in the country.

There were signs, however, that the mullahs were nervous about the ramifications of the new situation. President Khamene'i himself was quick, it seemed to Tehran observers, to try to establish his own leadership at a time when the spotlight was on an army of which he is not the commander-in-chief.

The National Defence Council, on which he and Rafsanjani serve, was convened daily at the residence of Khomeyni, and official statements let it be known that it was controlling the situation and the moves. Khamene'i did not want it to be thought that the victory was achieved by the military without the clergy being closely knit into the triumph. After all, Bani-Sadr, when he was president, was the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He organised a defeat and suffered for it; Khamene'i wanted it to be seen that he was implicated in a victory.

No doubt, too, the mullahs were discussing the implications of the fact that this latest victory, like the one that preceded it last year when Iranian troops broke the siege of Abadan, was achieved largely by the technical skills of the professional soldiers, although in both cases the vast majority

of the casualties were among the fanatical revolutionary guards and other militia. The guards, horrifying as it may sound to balanced secular minds, served as mine exploders and cannon fodder quite voluntarily, thus serving to make up for any deficiencies of equipment among the Iranian forces and to demoralise the Iraqis who had to face them. This at least is now being widely reported in Tehran.

Thus if the army has finally got its act together, as one Tehrani put it, the mullahs must be a bit fearful of the consequences. An obvious point for the government's attention must be the early consolidation of the party played by the guards and the Bassij, or mobilisation corps, in controlling the logistical side of the armed forces' activities. The effective hold of loyal militia men on these areas must be the prime security against any coup attempts by ambitious officers, they have been told. Mullahs also appeared like magic all over the littered battlefield to exercise their political role among the troops, after being conspicuous by their absence from the front line during the preliminaries. This was at Khomeyni's insistence that the army be allowed to do its work without interference.

No estimates of Iranian casualties were available but there were already ominous rumours that the toll had been high. Once the euphoria died down, the mullahs must inevitably have wondered, what would be the effects of the tragic toll on the public?

Perhaps it was some of these considerations that led foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati to fly on after a visit to Pakistan to Kuwait, where a non-aligned countries' meet is being held, to talk not only to the Kuwaitis but to other Middle East officials there. Among those he met, according to an Israel report, was Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and there were reports that a move was on to try to arrange a meeting between Velayati and the Iraqi foreign minister. If this were so, it could obviously be seen as one of the most significant moves in recent months.

Was there a possibility that honour had been served, as far as Khomeyni and his mullahs were concerned, by the latest victory? Were they really ready to start talking peace. Had the message got through to them that the threat to the country's economy was an even greater menace to their future than the possibility of an unoccupied army trying to mount a coup against them?

Velayati had talks with his Kuwaiti opposite number, according to Tehran radio, and was no doubt urged to consider peace talks. The Persian Gulf states rulers have all shown signs of extreme nervousness about the defeat of the Iraqis in the latest battle. Indeed, the speed with which they telephoned to Saddam Hussain, with King Hussain of Jordan also flying into Baghdad, once the news spread of the Iraqi withdrawal implied near-panic among them.

By the weekend the Saudi princes had sent one of their ministerial number to Baghdad to closet himself with Saddam. Syria was noticeably sarcastic about this. Just as it had been about King Hussain's "mistake" in supporting the Baghdad regime. Damascus did not try to disguise its satisfaction with the way events were going.

But the Tehran mullahs still had to face up to the fact that the Iraqis were holding the cities of Khorramshahr, Qasr-e-Shirin and Mehran along with a considerable stretch of Iran's land. And the way the action stopped at the front when the Iraqis withdrew, and inertia returned to the battlefield, perhaps reflected the limitations that are still imposed on the Iranian armed forces by the years of purges and the shortage of arms and ammunition. Sources near the frontline area said it was quieter than it had been for many months; the Iraqis seemed to have withdrawn about 5 kilometres along a front line stretching for many times that distance north and south.

Meanwhile, the recent successes have brought home to the professional soldiers in Iran certain facts. Paramount among them is that the politicians should be kept at arms length and not be allowed to come to the front line.

In Feb. 1981, Bani-Sadr, who wanted to endear himself to Khomeyni, rushed the army into a disastrous counter-offensive in the vicinity of Ahvaz when Ayatollah Montazeri, in a sermon, criticised the army for being "dormant." Now it is realised that the Feb. 1981 counter-offensive was a political game; Bani-Sadr pushing for action when every experienced officer was opposed to it; and Beheshti and his group--Khamene'i and Rafsanjani--withholding military back-up by the revolutionary guards and logistical backing by the Bassij, with the professional soldiers' opposition to the action as a ready-made excuse, say their critics.

Another fact is that the first major success of the Iranian army, the breaking of the Abadan siege last September, was achieved by the locally stationed military commander, who did not consult the joint staff command in Tehran. Soon after that success, the then Defence minister and joint staff chief (Fallahi) were killed in an air crash. Since then the army's performance has improved a great deal.

Since that first action two officials most resented by the military have been promoted to the top jobs--Khamene'i was made president and Hossain Mussavi premier. Khamene'i is disliked because he was responsible for the break-up of the original command structure of the armed forces soon after the revolution, when he was appointed undersecretary of defence. He collaborated closely with the Mojahedin-e-Khalq and other leftist groups (they were then Khomeyni's allies) in arresting and sending to the firing squad some 600 officers and other ranks. When he was sworn in as president last October, Khomeyni was aware of the fact that the army hated him; so he appointed the chief of joint staff, General Zahir-Nejad, as the top decision-maker in military matters. Thus, Khomeyni denied to Khamene'i the title of commander-in-chief, which he had conferred on his first president. But later Khomeyni, who carries the title of commander-in-chief himself, appointed Khamene'i and Rafsanjani to the defence council.

It is now clear that the main reason for the army's successes is primarily the decision to leave the fighting to the professionals. Prior to the latest victory the mullahs had stopped hanging around the frontline areas and did not interfere in affairs of war. Even revolutionary guards now listen to orders from army officers and a great deal of manual work is done by the Bassij

(mobilisation) groups who provide behind-the-lines services in collecting the dead and the injured, transferring the Iraqis POWS and taking possession of captured weapons.

The fact that the victory now has been achieved mainly by the professional army has filtered through to Tehran and the rest of the country, Tehranis contacted this week said. Already the first mumblings that the mullahs are taking too much of the credit for themselves are to be heard. There will inevitably be concern by the clergy and its supporters that this could spread and encourage any military adventurer to try his hand.

The mullahs, however, are relatively confident that they have defused the military bomb, according to some observers. They have weathered the storm of the early criticisms that the Shah built an army that they weakened so much the Iraqis humiliated Iran. They already feel that humiliation has been repaid. They are not worldly people and it is their faith in themselves that has enabled them to shame all Iran's educated class and defy all the prognostications about their fall.

But they are sufficiently in touch with the people to know there is rising resentment against the shortages and the restrictions on business and other hardships. They know the death toll is beginning to distress even those who have been screaming for martyrdom for their own relatives. Their foreign advisers as well as their own few economists warn them a final military victory could be too costly financially, as well as in human terms, to contemplate. It is this, according to some Iranian observers, that must now lead to some small optimism at least that peace may be in sight at last.

CSO: 4600/411

SOVIETS REPORTED EXERTING 'GENTLE PRESSURE' ON REGIME

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 pp 5-6

[Text] The Soviets have begun a carefully planned move to bring gentle pressure on the mullahs to swing more decisively towards Moscow, well-informed sources in Tehran said last week. They maintain that there are signs of increasing Soviet efforts to expand their role in Iran.

The signs are:

1. A marked change of tone in Moscow radio's broadcasts in Persian, in which the customary praise of Khomeyni and the revolution is spiced with suggestions of an increased effort to introduce Soviet style reforms by the mullahs, especially in the economic field.
2. Explicit invitations to the mullahs to expand their economic, social and cultural relations with the USSR. In fact, in 1981, Irano-Soviet trading exchanges jumped to over \$1,300 million compared with \$270 million a year before the revolution. What is interesting is that Iran paid the entire value of its \$650 million imports from the Soviet Union by exporting 2.5 million tons of crude oil; this in return enabled the Russians to export their own oil to Western countries to earn hard currency to pay for their own wheat imports. Iran last year exported 11 million tons of crude oil to Eastern bloc countries and imported \$1,900 million worth of goods from them in return.
3. Occasional newspaper articles in which the Soviets gently tell the mullahs that while their anti-American slogans are welcome, the Soviet Union cannot tolerate slogans which equate Soviet policy with that of the imperialists. The most recent commentary was published last week, on the eve of the celebrations in Iran for anniversary of the referendum on the Islamic republic, by TASS. In it the "Not West, Not East" slogan was ridiculed. The commentary said that it was wrong to refer to Soviet policy as Eastern imperialism, and added that the USSR has all along supported the Islamic regime and that Islam and communism can fruitfully cooperate.

Political analysts believe that the Soviets would like to see the Iranian regime move closer to Moscow not only in the economic field but also politically. They do not hesitate to tell the mullahs that integration of the two countries' economies would ensure that Iran would no longer depend on the West.

Moscow is also anxious to force the mullahs to recognise the Babrak Karmal regime in Kabul and distance itself from Pakistan. It is significant that the TASS commentary came when Iranian foreign minister Velayati was in Pakistan.

What kind of pressure can Moscow bring to bear on the Khomeyni regime? Analysts believe that Iran has already become economically dependent on the Russians to some extent though this could easily be reversed once a nationalist regime took over. In fact, the vast programme of industrialisation effected under the late Shah was sufficiently well planned that ties were established through it with a wide range of countries from the U.S.A. and Britain to Japan, France, West Germany, South Korea, Italy and some Eastern bloc states.

Analysts are more frightened of Russia's covert infiltration of Iran, especially as president Khamene'i, planning minister Taghi Banki, state minister Behzad Nabavi and several other prominent figures of the Tehran regime are thought to be just as much inclined towards Moscow as, say, Cuba's Fidel Castro is.

Yet, anti-Russian feeling in Iran, which has deep historic roots, is very strong. Moreover, Moscow seems to be well aware of the unpopularity of Khomeyni and his regime; so the Kremlin does not seem to have pawned its prestige in the defence of Khomeyni. Thus, analysts argue, for the time being the Soviets may be wishing to gain some influence in Iran for an eventual deal, or rather to be a party in an eventual deal which might present itself when the Khomeyni regime is overthrown.

Already nationalist groups have said that once Khomeyni is gone, a new nationalist government in Iran would maintain neutrality and would never allow Iranian territory to be used for military action against the Soviet Union. At the same time they expect clear-cut assurances from the Soviets that they would stop subversive activities in Iran.

Meanwhile some reports from Iran claim that the mullahs, despite their expanded economic relations with the Eastern bloc and their isolation from the West, are in fact weeding out the Tudeh elements from the civil service. For instance, these reports say that the 30 staff members dismissed from the radio and television department were members of the Tudeh party.

But there is also some evidence to the contrary. For one thing the radio-TV is still very anti-West in its tone, while its attacks on communist ideology are muted. Moreover, elements like Banki and Nabavi, whose communist connections are known, are still holding important positions.

The mullahs' propaganda also continues to smack of that of leftist organisations everywhere; there is a constant barrage of abuse against so-called feudalists, capitalists and entrepreneurs. Their economic policy is also directed towards expanding the role of state enterprises at the expense of the private sector. Already there are frequent jokes in Iran, where the people had a taste of modern consumerism under the Shah's capitalism, about the Khomeyni government's "experiment in equal distribution of poverty."

IRAN

BANI-SADR: ISRAEL SENDING ARMS TO IRAN

TA091428 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Apr 82 p 4

[Report from Switzerland by Yosef Alpren and from France by Gid'on Qotz]

[Text] Geneva, special to DAVAR--Bani-Sadr, the former president of Iran confirmed yesterday in an interview with the Swiss News Agency that his country received in the past and is still receiving war materiel from Israel.

The exiled president hinted that during his time in office Israel supplied all the spare parts needed for maintaining the Iranian Army's U.S. military equipment. He stressed the important role these spare parts played in the recent victory against Iraq.

According to Bani-Sadr, "Khomeyni's regime fears very much a rise in the esteem in which the army is held, and does not want a quick victory in the war against Iraq."

"For the first time," Bani-Sadr said, "Iraq is no longer able to endanger Iran, whatever internal developments occur in Iran after the death of Khomeyni."

In the same interview Bani-Sadr revealed that when he was president he approached the Soviet Union about buying Soviet military equipment, but said that until today the Soviets refuse to sell arms to Iran. Therefore, he said, the West has no reason to fear it.

Gid'on Qotz, DAVAR's correspondent in France, reports that Israeli military advisers actively took part in the recent Gulf war battles in which the Iranians won important victories. This report appeared in the weekly, V.S.D. [VENDREDI, SAMEDI, DIMANCHE].

The weekly says that the advisers were sent to Iran because the Iranians were mainly used to U.S. weaponry. Israel had also sent weapons it produced to Iran.

According to the report, one of the reasons for the dismissal of Bani-Sadr and Defense Minister Mostafa Chamran, who later died on the front, was their "refusal to collaborate with the Zionists."

The report says that the Israeli equipment and arms were first transported in EL AL planes to Lisbon, and from there in planes belonging to Iranair. The French town of Nice was used to store the arms, which included 250 tires for phantom jets (for which Israel received \$300,000), 50 scorpion-model tank engines, and spare parts for M-60 tanks. This equipment was brought to Tehran in planes belonging to a company in Luxembourg.

Since the downing of the Argentine "(Chander)" plane above Soviet Armenia on 18 July 1981, arms have been transported at a stepped up pace by way of the sea.

A Western expert cited by the weekly says that the success of the Iranian assault is connected with the quality of the Israeli arms.

CSO: 4423/136

KURDISH LEADER DETAILS VIEWS ON FUTURE IRAN

Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Apr 82 p 5

[Article by A. R. Qasemlu: "What Future for Iran?"]

[Text] Three years after the overthrow of the monarchy, Iran's future remains uncertain. The regime produced by the revolution, which had initially benefited from the support of vast segments of the population that aspired to independence after decades of foreign intervention, is propped up today only by terror. As months went by, illusions vanished and the regime's social base has been reduced to a hard core.

With or without Khomeyni, the power of the Shi'a clergy is doomed. However, it would be unrealistic to expect its rapid and spontaneous demise. The democratic opposition would commit the sin of short-sightedness if it did not plan a long-term strategy and if it did not rigorously appraise its chances vis-a-vis the other opposition movements and other possible alternative solutions.

A number of ayatollahs grouped around Majlis President Rafsanjani might, with the help of "lay moderates" like Bazargan, steal power from the tandem formed by the president of the Republic and the head of the government. Imam Khomeyni's state of health has significantly revived the struggle between these two clans: the former is essentially counting on the support of the army, while the latter has staked its existence on the support provided by the majority of the revolution guards. The Rafsanjani clan's victory might ensure the regime's survival for a period of time through an opening to the West and a relative liberalization.

Another solution is being prepared by the monarchists. It has some winning cards: foreign support, significant material means and a certain audience among the officers. Despite the fact that the army is discredited, it still might, if it grabbed power, be welcomed with relief, such is the loathing of the majority of the population for the Khomeyni regime. Monarchy can only be restored through a military coup d'etat, but for the time being, the army is fully occupied on the Iraqi front.

At the other extreme, some have evoked the eventuality of a coup by the "pro-Soviet Tudeh communists." Doubtlessly, they have been able to place some of

their men in certain strategic spots of the state apparatus, but for a lot of reasons, a "Tehran coup" is highly improbable.

As for the democratic solution that our party has been wishing for during the past 3 years, it is beginning to take shape within the National Resistance Council (NRC), which presently includes the principal Iranian progressive groups (the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), the National Democratic Front), as well as liberal personalities. It holds a number of winning cards: a wider social and political base than the other tendencies, significant military strength and the acceptance of the federative role of the Mojahedin.

In the field of foreign policy, nonalignment corresponds to the aspirations of the Iranians. A country with 2,500 kms of common border with the Soviet Union and on the shores of the Persian Gulf, of such vital importance to the West, is dutybound to establish good relations with both sides.

In the domestic field, the NRC's program includes measures that can satisfy a large part of the people's claims: reestablishment of individual liberties, abolition of discrimination against women, respect of political, cultural and religious pluralism and autonomy for non-Persian nationalities.

Kurdistan remains the bastion of the democratic forces. On a liberated territory twice the size of Switzerland, the democratic power is organizing itself. Despite the continuous attacks by government forces (45,000 soldiers of the regular army plus 40,000 revolution guards), Kurdish resistance is gaining ground. A total of 12,000 peshmerga (Kurdish guerrillas) and [number illegible] armed peasants have transformed Kurdistan into a rear base offering aid and refuge to our Iranian comrades, but also to all the freedom fighters persecuted in neighboring countries.

In the course of the two and-a-half years of war, the Kurdish people have lost more than 15,000 persons, 85 percent of whom were civilians. Atrocities have been committed in the name of Islam by the Khomeyni militias. Under these trying circumstances, the Kurdish people have reinforced their unity. Except for the KDP, which enjoys the support of more than 80 percent of the population of Kurdistan, only the extreme leftist Kameleh organization has succeeded in surviving the war.

Our party is now busy integrating our concept of democracy and autonomy into daily life. To this end, we have elaborated a project for administrative organization founded on people's councils elected through direct popular vote. Numerous villages are already administered by such councils and in the course of 1982 all of the liberated territories should be endowed with these organs. Special pains have been taken in the cultural field with the establishment, last September, of 500 schools teaching the Kurdish language to approximately 25,000 pupils. In the health field, difficulties are more serious: a lack of qualified personnel, a shortage of medicines because of the economic blockade imposed by Tehran, the indifference of international organizations such as the Red Cross which, despite our repeated demarches, has still not sent us a mission to visit the governmental prisoners we are

holding. However, this neglect is compensated by the solidarity of French medical organizations, to which I would like to pay homage. International Medical Aid, Physicians Without Frontiers and Physicians of the World have regularly dispatched teams and medicines for our three hospitals.

By taking into account the economic, political and cultural aspirations of the population, it is doubtlessly possible to liberate other regions of Iran, which could, in turn, become little islands of freedom where, while waiting for the total victory of the progressive forces, peasants would begin to learn about democracy. Of course, democracy should also be regional, since non-Persian nationalities aspire, within the framework of the Republic, to finally be masters of their own destiny while receiving the means to express their identity. Finally, there should be democracy at the national level, where this country of great diversity--six nationalities (Persians, Azerbayjanis, Kurds, Arabs, Baluch, Turkomans) and five religions (Zoroastrians, Jews, Christians, Shi'a and Sunni Muslims) could, thanks to political, cultural and religious pluralism, finally find stability, prosperity and peace.

CSO: 4619/85

IRANIAN PEOPLE LONG FOR SECURITY, HOPE, TRAVELERS REPORT

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 pp 3-5

[Text] Travellers arriving in Europe from Iran say that the Khomeyni regime's standing inside the country has never been as weak as during the days leading up to March 21, the Persian New Year.

"You see in the eyes of people standing in the bread queues a clear hatred for Khomeyni himself," one traveller told IPS. "People don't have to communicate verbally their hatred for Khomeyni. You see it in their eyes, their looks and the way they turn their faces away when they see a picture of Khomeyni or hear his voice when a shopkeeper switches on the radio."

This traveller, a 60-year-old merchant, said that people associated Khomeyni with bloodshed, misery, unemployment, poverty and total lack of security. He was emphatic that the lower income groups specifically were against Khomeyni and the revolution because they are now the worst hit.

"The way the Islamic regime has changed the life style is such that a vast number of people who worked in the entertainment and catering industries, in construction and the related branches, in public works and even in private industry are now unemployed," he said. "For about two years after the revolution they lived on their savings, hoping the situation might change. But now they are losing hope."

He dismissed the suggestion that mosques were distributing essential provisions for the needy at cut prices as "mere publicity." He stressed that only a limited number of families who have connections or are part of the "rally crowd" (those who dutifully attend mullah sponsored rallies) are beneficiaries of the cut price food.

He continued: "Let me tell you what the people say: at one time we used to go to a mosque for prayers, to university to study, to a shop to buy goods and to a cemetery to mourn. Now we go to the mosque to buy goods, to a university to say prayers and to the cemetery to celebrate. So the Islamic regime has changed everything in this way."

He said another black joke making the rounds was that in the past people said their prayers at home and had their drinks away from home, whereas now it was the other way round.

"I am frightened of the future when these killer mullahs are gone; then I think I have to say my prayers in hiding," he said. "I am 60 years old and have seen many events but this regime is something which I wish even my enemies didn't have to live under. Compared to it even the worst of the previous times under the Qajars (the dynasty before the Phalavis) must have been heaven."

Another traveller said that even the low-ranking employees were complaining. "I know an electrician who was highly optimistic that the revolution would bring benefits for him but now he is faced with reduced salary and inflated prices," he said. "Another low-ranking employee was wondering why he is now much poorer than during the Shah's time, asking me now that supposedly nobody is plundering the wealth of the nation we can be poorer instead of being better off."

This second traveller, a medical laboratory chemist, said that people had come to realise that so-called socialism and state control over economic activities cannot solve Iran's problems. "Now people know that really the government is a bad businessman and a worse manager; now everybody appreciates the value of private enterprise to the whole society."

He said for the people the question of whether the next regime should be republican, monarchy, democratic, totalitarian, authoritarian or a combination of Islamic cover and marxist content is of little significance.

"What the people want is to be left alone to manage their own business," he said. "So they want to be freed from Khomeyni but they do not want to replace him with yet another madcap who would come to subject them to another experiment on how to mould their life into a different kind of ideological straightjacket."

Thus, he said, the Bani-Sadr-Rajavi alliance is rejected. At one time some people believed that if they were destined to live under a doctrinaire regime then Bani-Sadr was better than Khomeyni. But Bani-Sadr is now finished. As to Rajavi, many people point out his terrorist background and hold him responsible for treacherous acts to break up the army and the civil service in order to fish in troubled waters. Moreover, people do not believe that terrorists can either dislodge Khomeyni, or having done that, they would have the expertise and know-how to run a modern state. The Iranian is not drawn to marxist ideas, either.

"Having paid due attention to these sentiments and views one may have come to the belated conclusion that the previous regime was one of the best one could have had in Iran," he said. "Of course the mullahs constantly abuse the achievements of the previous regime and it did have many faults; but the mullahs' propaganda now only reinforces people's belief that the previous regime was not that bad after all and, in this belief, people tend to forget its faults."

He concluded by saying that exile groups must take stock of the changes in people's attitudes since late 1978. After living for three years under an inefficient, totalitarian and bloodthirsty regime the people more than anything else want to have security, economic prosperity and a future which gives them hope.

ACTIVITIES OF SHAH REZA REPORTED

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 pp 8-10

[Article by Teezbin]

[Text] Rumours abound once more that a new effort has been launched in Paris to bring together the prominent opposition exile leaders for a united bid to back a move to unseat the mullahs in Tehran.

Although there has been no firm evidence to confirm it some sources hint that Hedayat Matin-Daftari, the leader of the National Democratic Front party who joined the Bani-Sadr-Rajavi National Resistance Council last year, has been trying to bring his two colleagues, in particular Rajavi, to a position where they could discuss at least some loose form of association with others whose thinking is not so remote from theirs.

Admiral Ahmad Madani, Khomeyni's former defence minister who has made it clear since he came into exile that he feels he is cut out to be the next secular leader of Iran and who feels he has the widest following inside the country of the exile leaders, is also, according to some exile sources, showing renewed interest in the Amini coalition idea. Right wing sources in Britain, where he stayed briefly recently, suggest this could be at the behest of American contacts he had there. They did not say whether the contacts were at the Americans' request or at Madani's; probably the latter, since the admiral was later quoted as saying he would be glad of backing from anyone to help save Iran from its present tyrannical regime.

Even Shahpour Bakhtiar, who has found it impossible to come to terms with Amini to work together in a coalition, presumably because Amini is as anxious to be seen as the real leader as much as is Bakhtiar, is said to have continued to show his willingness to try to find a formula to work together. One unconfirmed report said that Amini told an aide after a meeting with Bakhtiar, "He goes on about being the last prime minister, but I was prime minister long before he was!" Sadly at the moment Iranians don't need prime ministers; they need real patriots, that's all.

It is significant, in the light of all this rumour and gossip that the new young Shah Reza, in recent private visits to European countries to meet his fellow countrymen, has made it clear that he sees himself as purely a constitutional symbol of the monarchy as a unifying factor for Iranians. He does

not seek executive power, and says the old days in Iran are gone forever. He has told the thousands of Iranians who have trooped in to greet him that he feels everyone from left to right should come together to make an effective force to remove the present regime and provide the people of Iran with the means to choose democratically whom they do want to govern them and the system under which they want to live.

He has made it clear, too, that even though he feels the monarchy has a key role to play as a uniting force in helping bring the people together to rid themselves of the undemocratic regime in Tehran and in the aftermath, he is ready to step down if the people decide they don't want him or the monarchy once they have the free choice. He is said to have divested himself of those formerly around him who have expressed undemocratic views or who have been too closely associated with authoritarian aspects of the old Iran.

Serious-minded Iranians who have met him or his present small entourage during his recent travels say they have been impressed with the quality and experience of those they met. "They are people with longer or less superficial contact with the world at large than were so many Iranian diplomats and officials of the past," one told us. "This can only help the Shah develop a balanced view of what both Iranians and foreigners he meets tell him. The two groups see Iran's problems from two entirely different viewpoints and the contacts he is making can give him an objectivity which even the political leaders, with their naturally subjective interest in their own futures as executives rather than a constitutional figure, may find it hard to match."

Foreigners who have met the young monarch have also been complimentary. They say he combines personality with a relaxed attitude and an ability to discuss subjects in English and French with intelligence and asperity. He is rational about the past and, they say, frank about the limited constitutional role that any monarchy could play in any future Iran.

"Indeed, talking to him one finds little difference in his view of the future of Iran to that of most of the other opposition leaders," one journalist told us. "Though most of us are sceptical about monarchy's role in any society which has had such a wide-scale revolution there's no doubt this young man could become a catalyst if Iranians feel they need a familiar, traditional symbol to hold them together. Do they, that is the point?"

The Shah himself thinks they do. He says the feedback he receives from Iran is sufficient to encourage him to believe there is plenty of traditional support among the armed forces and other sections of the community still there. Among the exiles there is no doubt a vast ground swell of support that is available if only the young Shah and his entourage can give a strong enough lead. The great majority of exiles feel lost and without much hope and the symbol they need must glow more strongly than the young Shah has so far.

He is now said to have cut himself off, as far as his administrative and political work is concerned, from all other members of his family, though he naturally preserves his familial links with them. "He is entirely on his own as far as his duties to his country are concerned," an aide told us. "No other member of his family is associated with this side of his life in any practical sense.

One urgent task that his organisation must embark on is the coordination of the groups who support the monarchy, something markedly lacking so far. If some kind of a lead can be given to them and their publications so that both the monarchy and the Pahlavi reign can be presented in both a sane and a justifiable light instead of a welter of mindless praise or abuse of rivals then the exile communities will be the beneficiaries. So will the cause of all Iranians. The present bickering between these groups and publications is an unedifying thing and if the Shah and his aides can use their influence to redirect some of these energies into more practical and patriotic activity then they'll be doing us all a great favour.

Finally, it does appear that the Shah is aware he is only one young Iranian and the future belongs to all the others, too. This is a new departure for all the groups except the left-wing, who have been seizing a great advantage as a result.

There is a great deal more that can be written about this and about the new Shah and his views and potential for service to Iranians everywhere. Suffice it to say now that he provides further evidence that the younger generation of Iranians, no matter what their background, are very different from their parents and previous generations and it is precisely this fact that seems to have been missed by too many of the politicians who were brought up in another age and society.

CSO: 4600/411

BRIEFS

PLAN FOR USSR WITHDRAWAL--Iranian foreign minister Velayati's efforts to persuade Pakistani officials to accept Iran's plan for a Soviet withdrawal and an Islamic peace-keeping force from Iran, Pakistan and a third country appeared to have failed completely when he left Islamabad last weekend. Pakistan favours a U.N. effort to bring Kabul, Tehran and Islamabad together for negotiations on conditions for a Soviet withdrawal. This is due to begin next weekend. Velayati said there had been long discussions on Afghanistan during his stay in the Pakistani capital but more understanding was needed. His Pakistani opposite number Sahibzada Yaqub made no comment at all and there was no final joint communique. Velayati also denounced the United States as Iran's enemy number one, but he added that "we did not discuss the United States." [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 p 10]

NUCLEAR PLANT PLANS--A West German contractor says that Iran wants his company to resume work on the nuclear power plant at Bushehr on the Persian Gulf which was abandoned and handed over for use as an armed forces depot after the uprising in 1979. The Iranian Atomic Energy Commission expressed its interest in completing one of the two planned 650 megawatt reactors when it reached agreement on ending arbitration on the Kraftwerk Union's compensation claims for work already done on the project. A huge team of German engineers and technicians had been working for several years on the project before Jan. 1979 when they returned home. The project was 70 per cent complete by that time and the German firm was demanding a big sum as its share of the \$5 billion it was estimated the whole scheme would cost. The German spokesman said the plant had been "put in mothballs" to preserve it for three years. His company had no idea of its condition now and had not decided whether to return. It is feared that neither men nor their families would feel there was sufficient security in the area to justify them returning, sources said. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 p 10]

NEW IMPORTS POLICY--Iran is expected to announce a new imports policy shortly, according to sources in the United Arab Emirates. Both government and private agents have been offering barter deals, the private businessmen asking for only 50 per cent of the payment in cash while the government was willing to offer full barter terms with Persian Gulf states governments. The reports suggest, as IPS reported several weeks ago, that some parts of the nationalisation of foreign trade legislation may be relaxed to help Iran cope with desperate shortages. According to the English language KHALEEJ TIMES daily in Dubai, Iran is offering marble, minerals, pistachios, caviar and locally produced food in return for auto spares, tyres, soap, meat and paper. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 p 10]

KURDS PROPOSAL--Negotiations between the Kurds and Ayatollah Khomeyni failed largely because people around the religious leader insisted on disarming the Kurds, a Kurdish leader, Ismet Sherif Vanli, who is secretary general of the Kurdish Unity Party, said this week. "They would have massacred us if we had given up our arms," Vanli said in a plea in Washington for self-determination of all Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Vanli said he was not trying to include Soviet Kurds in his plea. Vanli proposed an "Intra-national" council of Kurds from all four countries to deal with economic, social and cultural matters, leaving national defence and foreign affairs in the hands of the respective, central governments. It should also have a voice in the central governments. Vanli added that Kurdish guerrillas still hold an area of Iran around the town of Karand, west of Kermanshah, as well as much of the countryside. His claims were noted as more modest than those of Iranian Kurdish leader Abdorrah Ghassemloo in recent interviews. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 66, 7 Apr 82 p 10]

CSO: 4600/412

BAGHDAD HOLDS IRANIAN RULERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR

GF111300 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 10 Apr 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Who Started the War?"]

[Text] Dear listeners, the whole world knows that impostor Khomeyni was the one to start the war against revolutionary Iraq. No one can deny this fact because the moment Khomeyni came to power in Iran he allowed the grudge he harbored against Iraq to manifest itself. In fact he announced that he was the enemy neighbor of the Arab people. He also moved to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

With a view to extending Iran's hegemony, he moved to commit crimes in Iraq. When Khomeyni's crimes failed to produce the expected result, he ordered raids on Iraqi border towns and villages. In fact these regions were shelled at the time. Thus, because of Khomeyni's aggressive moves, Iraq was forced to get involved in the war.

Iraq has been achieving great victories in this war which has been continuing for 18 months now.

The main objective behind Khomeyni's war against Iraq is to realize occupationist plans drawn up by international imperialism and the Zionist movement by placing Iraq and other Arab states in the Gulf under Iran's (?pressure) and blood-dripping claws and by disrupting peace in the region. It has become obvious by the aggressive line the Khomeyni regime is pursuing that the war between the two countries is not limited to clashes between Iran and Iraq alone. On the contrary, it is a battle to counter the intention to spread Iranian hegemony over Iraq and other Arab countries which are neighbors of Iran and the Iranian rulers.

It may also be that this war is a prelude to the secret and covetous aims and abnormal targets of the chauvinist Persian rulers for the Arab region. Iran may well cherish the wish to create regimes in the region which will be loyal to it. That may be why Iran is continuing its disgusting and deceitful policy aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of the Gulf states.

The policy pursued by the Iranian rulers is more disgusting [words indistinct] and exploitationist than that pursued during the era of the shah. This policy has caused excessive damage to both the peoples of the region and to Iran. The people of Iran must understand this fact well.

CSO: 4400/221

BACHDAD DISCUSSES DANGERS OF IRAN'S PARTITION

NC140618 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The oppressed people of Iran have triggered a great insurgency, a great movement which has left behind all strong and hindering obstacles in a bid to attain more human ideals, to pave the way for more progress and welfare, and to attain a suitable place among the family of nations for an ancient people. Neither arms nor artillery were able to deviate these people from the path they had chosen to reach their objective. However, it was at this time that international impostors started to think of a way to deviate the popular movement and to deprive the Iranian people of what this movement would bring.

At that time the engineers of imperialist policies thought of using Uranian hands and their Iranian peons to foil the insurgency. They thus gathered together their old hirelings and servants and the vote was cast for Khomeyni to help gain their objective. Khomeyni was approached and taken to France where preparations would start for his return to Iran. On his masters' orders, Khomeyni assumed a more national color in France. He paid lip-service to justice, promised freedom to the people, and spoke of granting all rights to minorities. In short, he used 1001 ways to lie to the Iranian people until he attracted everyone to him.

The experts who were hiding behind the scenes ordered that the mullahs' propaganda in Iran be increased. Khomeyni became an idol. The Iranian people regarded him as an angel sent to save them and religious leaders referred to him as a messenger of God, an imam, and the representative of the promised one. All these political games were directed by actors behind the scenes who were striving for their own objectives which did not have the least connection with Iran's domestic policy.

Imperialism wanted to transform Iran's revolution in such a way that the Iranian people would regret ever having risen. This is something they achieved. It was at this point that the imperialists started thinking of what to do within Iran, and their subservient elements expertly carried out their duties in the best way possible. They started a transformation of the domestic scene to such an extent that after the revolution's victory power

would be placed in the hands of those opposing Iran's progress. They subdued patriots, lovers of Iran and nationalists aiming to overshadow the personality of these people so that after the return of the wretched Khomeyni they would be unable to raise their heads. The sinister propaganda against people devoted to Iran started. Rumor mongering about Iran's nationalists reached its zenith. Scholars, religious leaders and academicians were abused. The execution and imprisonment of political figures intensified. As a result, the scene was prepared for the inroads of imperialist and Zionist elements in Iran.

Apparently the mullahs' mission in further destroying Iran has not yet ended. The Iranian people should awake and alertly and carefully start their diligent efforts to foil the plans of the directors of this puppet show and of these saboteurs and criminals. If the rule of these miscreants and executioners continues, and they go on with their wrongdoings at the rate they are, it will not be long before there will be no sign or name of Iran, and the Iranians and Iran will be partitioned and broken into pieces. It is then that it will be very difficult to compensate for what has happened, and a harm will be done to Iran's existence which will fill true Iranians with everlasting remorse.

CSO: 4400/221

STATEMENT OF PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATIC FRONT

JN101120 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1540 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Statement issued by the Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front on 4 April 1982 following a meeting held early April by the front's Higher Committee composed of: Democratic Party of Kurdistan, Iraqi Communist Party and Kurdistan Socialist Party of Iraq--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Sons of our great people: The Patriotic Democratic Front has met and discussed the developments of the situation in Iraq and the region in light of the current political, military and economic facts and reached basic conclusions relating to the crisis of the ruling regime and the scope for the future struggle of the patriotic and democratic forces against the dictatorship and the solution sought by themasses under the current circumstances.

The Patriotic Democratic Front believes that the aggressive war, which was sparked off by the fascist dictatorial regime against Iran, has entered a new phase--the phase of assessing the war's direct results and effects on subsequent developments in our country. The balance of military power on the battlefronts is turning in favor of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iraqi Army is being liquidated and the war is turning into a major disaster, which could be the worst in our people's modern history.

All evidences show that the country's economic and financial resources have been ruined. Ruination has also hit the country's human resources. The war and its destructive results are threatening the masses, which are living in a whirlpool of fear for their future and destiny. Death has entered every house, village and town. Tens of thousands of Iraqi families are in b'ack, because of the loss of their sons, who fell victim to the war launched by the war criminal Saddam and his fascist ruling clique. At the same time, this criminal war has caused untold tragedies to the friendly Iranian people and destroyed their towns and economic establishments.

It has become obvious that Saddam launched this war against Iran following the emergence of a crisis within his regime, which has persecuted the people and their patriotic forces and used the most hideous methods of terrorism, suppression and annihilation. It has also hitched the country to imperialism and its world economy. Splits occurred within this regime and its ruling party, which has isolated itself from the Arab liberation movement and the steadfastness and confrontation front and allied itself with the Arab reactionaries. All this has contributed to the crisis within the regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has made great sacrifices to repulse the aggression of the Iraqi regime, which is backed by U.S. imperialism and the reactionary states. The Islamic Republic of Iran has strongly defended its national independence, dealing successive blows to the organs of Saddam's regime, which is hostile to our Iraqi people--with all their parties and opposition patriotic forces--to punish and overthrow the Iraqi regime and to establish a government expressing the will of the people.

The Patriotic Democratic Front, which calls and works for the establishment of a broad patriotic front, does not exclude any of the patriotic and religious forces opposing the dictatorship. The front is struggling to overthrow this dictatorial regime and to fight imperialism and Zionism. While addressing this statement to the people--with all their ethnic national groups, sects and religions--the Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front considers the consolidation of the popular struggle an urgent task in order to overthrow the ruling clique and to save the people from a national disaster.

Naturally, this calls for unifying the struggle of the patriotic parties and the partisans from the various patriotic forces within a unified struggle framework so as to direct all rifles at the activities and maneuverings of the regime, to expedite its downfall and thus save the people from its crimes.

The Patriotic Democratic Front has exerted and is still exerting efforts to establish the broad patriotic front, which will unify the struggle capabilities and resources of all the opposition patriotic forces. The front expresses its complete readiness to cooperate and struggle side by side with all the honest opposition forces fighting the dictatorship.

In this respect, our struggler parties appeal to the honest officers and men to respond to the national appeal and to behave responsibly by directing their rifles at the regime and its ruling clique, which has involved the army in a tragic war and drowned the country in a flood of blood and tears, exposed national independence to danger and caused a great national disaster for the whole people.

The Patriotic Democratic Front, which depends on the will of the people and seeks the achievement of the common struggle objective, believes that the desire objective is the establishment of a national democratic coalition government embracing all the patriotic forces opposed to the dictatorship. This is the only way to end the crisis and save the country from more catastrophes, tribulations and ruination.

Sons of the people: Arabs, Kurds and ethnic groups, including Turkomen, Kaldanians and Assyrians: Your front, the Patriotic Democratic Front, appeals to you to intensify the struggle to overthrow the dictatorship and to reject all suspect solutions, which seek to (?Persianize) the crisis in the interest of the fascist rulers and to guarantee imperialist interests in the region and reassure the Arab reactionary regimes.

The Patriotic Democratic Front declares to the Iraqi people and the Arab and world public that it will struggle, with all the means in its power, to overthrow the dictatorship and to set up the national democratic coalition government, which will end the aggressive war against Iran and establish ties

of friendship and cooperation with the Iranian people against imperialism, Zionism and the reactionaries for the sake of achieving peace, liquidating the vestiges of the black fascist regime, punishing those who committed crimes against the people, achieving social justice and equality among the people, placing the country on a course of progress, democracy and social justice, returning our country to the Arab liberation movement and the steadfastness and confrontation front in fighting imperialism, Zionism, Israeli aggression and the Camp David accords, and allying with fraternal Syria; the country which firmly leads the steadfast front and which is exposed to ugly plotting of U.S. imperialism, Zionism and the reactionary Arab regimes in the region to make it succumb to pressure.

While declaring our full solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people to establish their independent national state, to return to their homeland and to determine their destiny on their national soil, we support the struggle to foil the plot against the Palestine question. We support the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan who firmly refuse to succumb to aggressive Israeli laws. Our front will wage a relentless struggle against U.S. imperialist presence in the region, especially in the Gulf, and the suspect alliance concluded by the reactionary Gulf regimes under a false security slogan.

While struggling to achieve these objectives, our front will take our country to the ranks of the Nonaligned Movement and the world struggle front against imperialism through an alliance with the USSR and othersocialist bloc countries and cooperation with all anti-imperialist progressive forces in the world.

Sons of our people of all classes and social factions, partisans from all patriotic political forces, honest officers and men, all patriotic parties and forces: Our homeland is burning in the war blaze. A national catastrophe is threatening the people from the north to the south as a result of the policy pursued by the ruling bloodthirsty dictatorship. This clique does not want to respond to the will of the people and their patriotic parties. It does not want to leave power and end the policy which brought death and ruination to our people and national economy. This clique wants to continue with its criminal policy by recruiting mercenaries and agents from those Arab countries, which are linked to imperialism.

National duty calls on you to rise to the level of responsibility and to intensify the struggle against the dictatorial regime so as to overthrow it, destroy all its repressive organs and to establish a democratic government which will save the country from the catastrophe and stop the bloodshed.

[Signed] The Iraqi Patriotic Democratic Front.
4 April 1982

CSO: 4400/221

BRIEFS

'SECRET' GREEK ARMS SALES--"The Greek Government is secretly supplying Iraq with arms and ammunition and concealing the shipments in various ways." This was reported by a senior Greek source several days ago to friends in Israel. The source, whose veracity is unimpeachable, claimed that the shipments to Iraq are being implemented via Cyprus, with Thailand written on the crates as the place of destination. These arms deals, according to the source, are being carried out despite the fact that the current prime minister of Greece once guaranteed not to carry out arms deals with Arab countries hostile to Israel. [Text] [Report by Arye Avneri] [TA291045 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Mar 82 p 1]

DJIBOUTI CITIZENS VOLUNTEER--Djibouti, 11 Apr (INA)--Hundreds of Djibouti and Arab citizens crowded in front of the Iraqi Embassy here today, asking to volunteer for Iraq's war against the racist Persians. The citizens stressed in petitions submitted to the Iraqi Embassy that participation in the war alongside Iraq is the sacred duty of every Arab who is faithful to his nation and people as well as a victory for humanity and justice which were trampled down by the racist Khomeyni clique in Iran. [Text] [JN111523 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Apr 82]

USSR AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received the credentials of Viktor Minin, USSR ambassador to Iraq, this morning. The presentation ceremony was attended by Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Revolution Command Council secretary and acting chief of the president's office, and Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister. [Text] [JN081000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Apr 82]

REFUSAL TO MARK SOLIDARITY DAY--In a new confirmation of its alliance with the Zionists and its alignment with the U.S. policy, the Ba'thist regime has refused to respond to the call to exhibit solidarity with the Palestinian people by closing down all government offices in solidarity with the general strike and the uprising being staged by the Muslim Palestinian people. The 'Aflaqists' refusal is meant to distract the Muslim Iraqi people from the Palestinian cause and to divert their eyes from Saddam al-Tikriti's crime of sending the Iraqi Army to fight its brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of confronting the Zionists and their continued crimes against the Arabs and Muslims in the occupied territories. [Text] [GF141909 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Apr 82]

CSO: 4400/221

'DAVAR' COMMENTARY ON SHARON WEST BANK POLICY

TA121758 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Apr 82 p 5

{Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "Sharon Is Trying to Eliminate the Existing Social Establishment in the West Bank"]

[Text] I do not know the formulations appearing in Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's plans for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The full details of these plans generally remain classified. At cabinet sessions and in public appearances the defense minister repeatedly stresses that he is using a clear plan in the administered territories, one that has well-defined aims and phases. The way to discover these details is to follow events and the behavior of the military government and the civilian administration (which, in fact, are one and the same and both are subordinate to the rule of the Ministry of Defence). The plans and policies can be divided into three spheres:

1. The elimination or curbing of the existing leadership. Apart from the elimination of the three mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and al-Birah who headed the National Guidance Committee, the Israeli administration is trying to strike at the mayors of other towns and members of the municipal councils and so they are pushed out or made to surrender. The main method is to hit at their pockets. In Hebron, the military government ordered the closure of the large workshop belonging to the (acting) Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah. In Halhul a closure order was issued against the Milhim family's pharmacy (the family of the mayor who was deported). In Bethlehem the large souvenir shop belonging to Mayor Ilyas Frayj was welded shut and closed during the strike. The Janin mayor's shop has also been closed. In Jericho--where the dismissed mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, is staying under an order banning him from moving--the employees of the Gondola Restaurant are complaining that the military government is disturbing them. The restaurant belongs to Karim Khalaf's family and last week soldiers were put on trial because they ate there in contradiction of existing orders banning eating in Arab restaurants (an order which, as it appears to me, has never been the cause of soldiers being put on trial). In al-Birah, Deputy Mayor (dismissed) Jamil al-Tarifi claims that the military government is banning the supply of explosive materials for the quarry he owns (such supplies are under scrupulous supervision in the West Bank), and therefore he has to close the quarry which employs about 30 workers. 'Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamadallah has been put on trial after being accused of leaving his place of residence without permission and thus violating the restricting order against him. Forbidden publications were also found in his

possession and after the sentence is given, it is doubtful if he will be able to continue in his post. These are examples I have collected and if we add to them the difficulties that the military government is making about exports over the bridges, restrictions to traffic, forbidding al-Shak'ah and Khalaf to meet with the British deputy foreign secretary and so on, then the picture of the Israeli attempt to bring to submission and eliminate the current leadership is clear.

2. The breaking of the Arab intellectuals. The intellectuals in the territories have increased greatly since 1967 and are concentrated in various colleges. As with the mayors and members of municipalities, so, too, the intellectual elite in the West Bank has a very developed national awareness and identifies with the PLO. Thus, attempts are being made to break them. The Bi'r Zayt University, the center of academia in the West Bank, has been almost idle during the current school year because of closure orders. I recently met several Arab students who were making preparations to go and study abroad because they do not believe that Bi'r Zayt will return to normal operations.

The East Jerusalem press, which is an instrument to express not only political affairs, but also matters of society and culture (developed literary sections and so on) is almost paralyzed because at present two papers, AL-FAJR and AL-SHA'BM are not distributed in the West Bank. The large circulation paper AL-QUDS' editorial board also complains about an appreciable hardening in censorship and restrictions on circulation. To this we can add control that is much discussed--over the sale and possession of many books, control--(which also existed in the past) over theater performances, exhibitions of paintings and gatherings with a national-cultural nature--and the picture is clear.

3. The most outstanding of all of Minister Sharon's policies is an attempt to infiltrate an Israeli presence in every corner of the West Bank. To the scores of footholds and new settlements in Judaea and Samaria the Nahal footholds have now been added and around the great settlement system large-scale work is being carried out of laying roads, water pipelines, electricity and telephones, new postal lines (mobile post offices), the establishment of Jewish regional councils with development companies and generous financial allocations, a transport system, the construction of new factories, hotels and so on. Add to this the large and evergrowing IDF deployment in the West Bank: Camps, emergency stores, training areas and other installations.

Because it is clear to everyone that the autonomy negotiations are without any chance of success (who knows if they will be resumed at all?), then, Sharon's plan to expel and suppress any sign and any element with an Arab nationalist character, to lead to an Israeli presence and full control in the territories, is also clear. In fact, this is what Begin's previous government also believed, when it determined, in the directives for the autonomy negotiations, that at the end of the transition period, Israel would demand full sovereignty in the territories, and it was also in this spirit that Sharon expressed himself at one of the recent cabinet sessions, saying that

if Egypt after the withdrawal did not fulfill its commitments regarding the negotiations, we would be able to make Israeli law applicable to the West Bank and Gaza. However, in contrast to the previous government, in which there were ministers who still believed in some sort of settlement, it is quite clear to the current government that no agreement about the West Bank will be acceptable to the Camp David partners and so the government is letting the defense minister act as he wishes to try to eliminate the existing Arab social establishment in the West Bank and, in its stead, consolidate an Israeli system with full control.

CSO: 4400/222

ISRAEL

ALIGNMENT MK PROPOSES NEW AUTONOMY PLAN

TA130739 Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr 82 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Labour Mk Gad Ya'aqobi has come up with a new formula on autonomy, which he suggests that Israel implement unilaterally since in his view the autonomy talks with Egypt are likely to remain bogged down.

Ya'aqobi detailed his plan in a letter addressed to Labour Chairman Shim'on Peres. In the letter he requests that the plan be brought before either the Political Committee or the bureau of the party soon.

Ya'aqobi proposes that his plan be implemented as an interim measure for a number of years. In effect, he suggests that autonomy be unilaterally implemented by Israel in regard to the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. But this will not include the Jordan Valley, the Jerusalem area, the 'Ezyon bloc and all the Jewish settlements in the areas, wherever they may be.

Ya'aqobi told the JERUSALEM POST that the similarity with the late Moshe Dayan's unilateral autonomy idea "is superficial only and is limited to the unilateral implementation. I discussed my idea with Dayan before he passed away and Dayan did not accept it."

Ya'aqobi further told the POST that with "the autonomy negotiations at a deadlock, it is reasonable to suppose that after the Sinai pullback is completed, the Saudi Fahd plan or the Egyptian 11-point plan or some variation on these may become the common denominator for the less extreme Arab states. If Israel does not very soon launch a new initiative of its own, it might find itself trapped in deliberations over these plans, which are a danger to this country."

Ya'aqobi further argues that his plan would meet Israel's security needs and assure the unity of Jerusalem, given the "situation in which there is no chance of reaching accord with an authorized and representative Arab party on the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza."

CSO: 4400/222

ISRAEL

'HA'ARETZ' COMMENTS ON U.S. AID

TAL151244 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Apr 82 p 9

[Commentary by Avraham Tal: "Independence With Dependence"]

[Text] "Israel can kiss its requests goodbye--requests such as that to increase the security grant by \$300 million and also that for new arms deals--if it acts in Lebanon without a justifiable provocation." This is what congressional sources said at the beginning of this week. The reference is to the sum of \$300 million that is actually (although this is not being said officially) to compensate for the AWACS deal with Saudi Arabia and that is scheduled to be given to Israel in fiscal year 1983 (which begins in October 1982). Israel asked for this sum to be given as a grant, but the U.S. administration included it in the budgetary proposal as a loan. About the uses of this money Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper told one of the congressional subcommittees at the end of March: "We assume that Israel will use this money mainly to purchase U.S. aircraft, although it may decide to use it for other objectives." It is not pleasant to realize that the compensation that was promised to us in order to offset a most significant qualitative advantage given to a confrontation country despite all our protests is serving as a potential punishment tool. It is particularly worrisome that this threat comes from the direction of the congress in which there has generally been great understanding of Israel's security and economic needs.

In the table below are concentrated data about aid to Israel in 1983, according to the U.S. administration's proposal as submitted to Congress. Also given is the data about the proposed aid to Egypt (in millions of dollars):

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Egypt</u>
Security aid	1,700	1,400
Economic aid	785	750
Food surpluses	--	260
Total	2,485	2,410

The security aid to Israel (\$500 million of which is a grant and the rest is a loan for 30 years at a slightly lower interest rate than that of the market) was, as stated, increased by \$300 million, while the economic aid is to

remain on the same nominal level as it was over the last few years. At the same time, there may be a worsening in the terms of the economic aid: As in previous years, the administration is also proposing in 1983 that a third of this aid should be given as a loan. It is not yet guaranteed that Congress will decide to give the entire sum as a grant, as it has done in previous years.

The security aid to Egypt has been increased by \$500 million. During President Mubarak's visit to Washington in February, an increase of only \$400 million was mentioned, but in the end it was decided to increase it by \$500 million, as though the intention was to give more actualization to Secretary of State Haig's statement: "Increasing the aid to Egypt brings it closer to parity with Israel." Of the security aid to Egypt, \$400 million will be a grant.

The data, and also the explanations accompanying the foreign aid budgetary proposal, again prove the increasing importance of Egypt as seen by the administration. During the discussion in one of the Congress subcommittees, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Nicholas Veliotes, explaining the request relating to Israel, said:

"We are committed to Israel's security and safety. Security aid to Israel is a central matter in our Middle East policy."

Immediately after that, explaining the Egyptian clause, he said: "Egypt is the key to many things we want to do in the Middle East, both in terms of regional peace and in terms of regional security."

The U.S. aid is, of course, given without formal political conditions, but it would be better not to ignore several comments heard over the last few weeks from administration representatives during the initial discussion on the allocations to the Middle East. Mr Veliotes said (31 March): "We are continuing with the negotiations over the establishment of autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza. These negotiations are aimed at achieving an agreement that will serve as a basis for the incorporation of the Palestinians, something which is essential for a successful conclusion to the arrangements, that will permit interim rule in the West Bank and Gaza." In another sub-committee Mr Veliotes (on the same date) said, in reply to a question by Congressman Jack Kemp about deepening the U.S. involvement in the peace process ("Why not convene a Camp David conference number two?"): "I would not dismiss the possibility of something more dramatic along the way." But he did not go into detail. Also emphasized in these discussions was the great importance the United States attributes to strengthening the cease-fire in Lebanon and to Israel's "vital" contribution to this. It is not difficult to identify, behind these general remarks, foundations around which a serious dispute could be created between the governments of the United States and Israel over its current policy line.

The indispensability of the U.S. aid to Israel is a matter that needs no proving, but as an illustration we will mention two pieces of data here: U.S. security aid is about 80 percent of our direct security imports; the

civilian aid finances about 6 percent of all imports (goods and services) and 40 percent of the surplus civilian imports. These data have limitations, but the counts are significant. Even if we assume that the United States will not impose prolonged sanctions on Israel that would weaken its military strength, the possibility cannot be dismissed of the use of measures that would make things very difficult for Israel in the economic financial sphere. This, of course, refers to the period after 26 April.

The Israeli public, which has over recent years been pampered with a high standard of living, apparently believes--and an appreciable section of it at that--that the current policy can be adhered to and, at the same time, the good, comfortable life can be enjoyed. Therefore all the polls repeatedly show that a large section of the public stands behind the official policy which is clearly on the road to a clash with U.S. policy in the area. It is impossible to assess with certainty how far the administration is prepared to go in its pressure on Israel in order to guarantee that it give greater consideration to U.S. interests in the area; furthermore, it is also hard to know how much economic pressure the Israeli public will be prepared to bear in order to accept the price of the government's current policy. We will only be able to wish for ourselves that these two questions will not reach any actual test in the difficult period opening the day after the completion of the Sinai withdrawal.

CSO: 4400/222

ISRAEL

COMMENTARY ON EFFICACY OF BAN ON PLO MONEY

TA151815 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Apr 82 p 13

[Commentary by Yosef Tzuri'el: "The PLO Financial Wizards in the West Bank"]

[Text] The Israeli administration in the territories will not be able to pretend for long that its decision forbidding the introduction of PLO funds from entering Judaea and Samaria is being enforced.

The resolution was made about a year ago, following a lengthy period of full or partial permits, where eyes were turned the other way and attempts were made to supervise the use of funds coming in from "outside sources." A distinction was made between the Arab countries financing the aid and imposing a supervision of the books of the local councils and the public institutions.

Government circles have explained that in addition to the PLO funds intended to finance essential projects and provide aid to the needy, the people and organizations described as maintaining what is termed "the steadfastness" against the Israeli administration are recipients. This includes the recipients of aid by the joint PLO-Jordanian Committee.

Thus the impression has been created that the ways to funnel money from the PLO, on behalf of the PLO or at its recommendation were blocked. Anyone who asked or doubted the efficiency and efficacy of the ban got the following reply from the authorized bodies: "Leave it to us."

A year has passed, and the very same elements that took such great pains to pass the resolution banning the use of PLO money were asked to answer the question what is the source of the unregulated money that Judaea and Samaria bodies and organizations currently have?

Indeed, it is difficult to admit failure. Even though some 1 and 1/2 years ago an initial investigation of the efficacy of the decision was made, with not-so-favorable results, recently again visits were held on the Allenby and Adam bridges and again the sources of financing for the institutions in the occupied territories were reviewed indirectly. What was discovered could shock all those who were supposed to know what was happening in the area.

It transpired that on the one hand there is an abundance of aid sources, and that on the other it is impossible to seal all the holes created as a result of the official decision to close off the bridges to the transfer of PLO-source money.

Already more than 9 months ago I heard Arab public figures joking among themselves about the effectiveness of the decision. I was told in one institution: "Why is it necessary to transfer money through the bridges or by courriers? After all, there are Israeli banks all over the world, through which it is possible to transfer any sum of money here, once to someone's account number, another type under another individual's name."

Since then the decision has remained in effect, but the ways to transfer money from outside have become exceedingly more sophisticated. One need only talk to the youths who receive grants and loans to build their homes; one only needs to see how Arab institutions handle their affairs to see there is no need to resort to the Israeli administration for help.

So what is better: A decision that is not being implemented the way those who formulated it wanted, or a return to the previous situation where outside funds were allowed, but were subjected to severe scrutiny on the use of those funds?

CSO: 4400/222

ISRAEL

CYCLONE COMPANY PLANS PRODUCTION OF ATTACK DRONE

Company Plans Production

TA112041 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Apr 82

[Text] The (Cyclone) Company in Karmi'el, which deals with the manufacture of aircraft parts and the repair of planes and helicopters, is now planning to manufacture a drone.

Our correspondent on economic affairs in Tel Aviv, Hayim Platner, comments that this plane is to serve for attack purposes. To date, drones manufactured in Israel are used mainly for patrol and photography purposes. Some are exported.

The company is now also examining the possibility of establishing, in cooperation with a U.S. company, a plant for the manufacture of helicopters. The (Cyclone) plant employs about 400 workers from Karmi'el and its environs and intends to increase the number of workers by 200 after it gathers capital through the selling of stock.

Further Reportage on Plans

TA121418 Jerusalem POST in English 12 Apr 82 p 9

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] Cyclone Aviation Products--Israel's largest private airplane parts manufacturer--has produced parts for F-15 planes belonging to the Saudi Arabian Air Force.

This was revealed by the company's general manager, Moshe Harel, during a tour of the company's manufacturing facilities here. The tour was organized to promote the company and thereby help raise some 100 million shekels--half of it through the Tel Aviv stock exchange.

The specific part reportedly earmarked for the Saudi F-15 is a gun access door panel. According to Harel, Cyclone is the sole manufacturer of this door and although the Americans have the equipment to produce it themselves, they have subcontracted the work to the Israeli plant.

Consequently the silver coloured panels with Cyclone's small triangle emblems are the only ones used in the U.S. in producing the F-15, reporters were told.

Part of the 100 million shekels the company wants to invest in development is intended to increase automation. If all plans materialize, employment will increase from the current 400 to 600.

Cyclone's production includes building 70 percent of the KFIR's body and doors for the DC-10. It also specializes in repairing and maintaining all types of helicopters used by the Israel Air Force.

Plans are afoot to build an attack drone, and specifications are being drawn up. Hayim Yaron, the chairman of the company's board of directors, explained that once the specifications are ready, his company will try to sell the drone to the defence establishment. If the government is not interested, he will seek permission to export such pilotless planes.

CSO: 4400/222

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION--The country's industrial production last year rose by 6 percent in real terms, following a drop of 3 percent in 1980. According to preliminary figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the sectors with the highest increases were wood products (11 percent), clothing (10 percent), and mechanical and electrical equipment (8 percent). Employment in industry rose by 7,000, about 2.5 percent of the sector's total labour force. Productivity per day increased by 4.5 percent. During the year the daily wage of industrial workers rose by 146 percent, compared to an increase of only 117 percent in the consumer price index. [Text] [TA131536 Jerusalem POST in English 13 Apr 82 p 11]

MARCH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--Last month the consumer price index rose by 5.1 percent, reflecting the largest hike in food stuffs--7 percent. Our correspondent Gid'on Zelinger reports that a rise in the prices of the subsidized commodities is particularly evident. The Histadrut secretary general reacted to this by saying that the rise of the index by 5.1 percent indicates that if the government wants to, it is capable of maintaining relative stability in the prices of goods. He announced that in his meeting with the finance minister tomorrow, he will demand that he clarify the subsidy policy for a full year in order to accommodate the Histadrut's working out its own policy. Yeruham Meshel expressed concern over the employment situation saying that despite the expectations, there was no real drop in the number of unemployed last month. [Text] [TA151527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Apr 82]

NEW OIL DRILLING--Today oil drilling was begun near Kibbutz Massada in the Jordan Valley. The National Company for Oil Searches is carrying out the drilling with an investment of \$1 million. It is planning to drill to 1,800 meters. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that in water drills made by the Meqorot company in the area several months ago signs of oil were found. [Text] [TA131234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Apr 82]

COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS ATTENDING CONGRESS--The 12th National Congress of the Israeli Communist Youth Alliance opened last night at the Shavit Theater in Haifa. Over 300 delegates, both Arab and Jewish, representing 72 branches are attending the congress. Delegations from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, East Germany, West Germany and France are attending the current congress. The congress acclaimed the blessings of the Palestinian communist youth operating underground in the West Bank as well as the greetings

of the Palestinian Organization of Working Women and the Union of Palestinian Students. Mkh Me'ir Wilner called on the youths to act against the threat of the outbreak of a war in the north, not to remain passive but to close ranks beyond the differences of opinion in order to avert a war. The congress reported about an 80 percent rise in the number of members of the Rakah Youth Movement. A Rakah delegation composed by the deputy secretary general of Rakah, Mkh Tawfiq Tubi, and a member of the Politbureau, Tamar Gozansky, left for Cuba yesterday at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee to hold talks between Rakah and the Cuban Communist Party. [Text] [TA110900 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 82 p 2]

PROBLEM OF RAFAH INHABITANTS SOLVED--Egypt has decided to allow the inhabitants of the "Canada" refugee neighborhood in Rafah to remain there for another 6 months in order to solve the problem of the construction of new houses for them within that section of the city which would also in the future remain under Israeli rule. The Egyptians will also compensate the 517 families who will be leaving their houses behind. Israel will give lots of 259 square meters at (Tal al-Sultan) in the framework of "build your own house" operation. Inhabitants of the neighborhood have asked the Israeli authorities to extend that period to 1 year. Israel has promised to convey the request to the Egyptians who have recently shown a tendency not to make life difficult for the inhabitants due to the partition of the city. The problem of freedom of movement of the inhabitants has also been solved. They will receive special certificates issued by the Israelis and the Egyptians in exchange for their Israeli or Egyptian documents at the border crossing points. As known, the uncertainty regarding the future of the inhabitants of the "Canada" neighborhood and the crossing arrangements between the two parts of the city had caused serious disturbances. [Text] [TA110949 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 82 p 2]

MARCH IMMIGRATION--Some 1,200 immigrants arrived in Israel in March, about 300 more than in February. The head of the Aliyah and Absorption Department of the Jewish agency, Refael Kotlowitz, reported that an increase has been noticed in immigration from Western Europe, the United States, Argentina and South Africa. Only 104 immigrants came from the Soviet Union, almost double the number in February. The drop-out rate totaled 73 percent. [TA111527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Apr 82]

JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR--Some 289 Jews left the Soviet Union last month. This number exceeds the number of Jewish emigrants in February. The number of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel has also risen slightly. Most of the Jews who dropped out emigrated to the United States through the facilities of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society [HIAS] and other Jewish organizations. [TA060522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Apr 82]

CURRENCY CIRCULATION--During the financial year just ended, the government printed 19 billion Israeli shekels instead of the 12 billion shekels provided for in the budget. The additional amount was put into circulation despite the fact that government revenue was also up--34 billion shekels instead of 22 billion shekels. This means that the government overspent by 19 billion shekels, most of it to subsidize basic goods and pay for the purchase tax reductions prior to the June 1981 elections. In March the government printed 1.9 billion shekels. [Text] [TA060522 Jerusalem POST in English 5 Apr 82 p 10]

LEBANON

BUTRUS, FRENCH ENVOY DISCUSS SITUATION IN SOUTH

NCL12007 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 82

[Text] Around 1730 [1530 GMT] today Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, met at his house in al-Ashrafiyah with French Ambassador in Lebanon Paul Marc Henry. The discussion during the meeting concentrated on the situation in the south.

After the meeting, which continued for about 1 hour, Minister Butrus was asked whether there were new developments concerning the diplomatic consultations on the south.

He said: There have been no new developments since yesterday, but there is a continuation of the contacts and the efforts here and abroad. I have nothing new to add to what the prime minister announced yesterday.

Minister Butrus was asked: What about the consultation with the French ambassador?

He said: The French ambassador contacted me yesterday after I had sent instructions to our ambassador in Paris to make some contacts; the meeting was held to discuss the topics you are aware of.

The French ambassador was asked about the role France could play regarding the dangerous situation in southern Lebanon.

He said: The president of the French Republic, the minister of external relations and I have expressed, on more than one occasion, our profound concern about the situation in the south. It is clear that any violation of the prevailing peace and the general stability is to us a topic which calls for extreme concern.

The French ambassador was asked whether the dangerous situation could lead to a deterioration in the military situation.

He said: It is clear that in the event any military action or attack takes place, then that will aggravate the situation in the internal and external arena and in the area. Every violent action will lead to a number of violations; and every violation can only be gauged by its consequent impact on the internal and external arena.

CSO: 4400/221

LEBANON

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR

PM141345 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Apr 82 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese Delegation to Moscow Holds Press Conference: Soviet Concern for Unity and Independence of Lebanon and for Establishing Genuine Peace in Area"]

[Excerpts] Dr Amin al-Hafiz, former Lebanese prime minister, has praised the "successful and useful" meetings and talks the Lebanese delegation held in the Soviet Union. He said that the Soviet officials assured the delegation of "the concern of their state for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and its readiness to help the Lebanese people get out of the situation they are in."

Al-Hafiz declared that the delegation found "Soviet concern for all the elements of genuine peace in the area, and the fear that the state of world tension might lead to further complications of the Middle East problem."

Al-Hafiz was speaking yesterday about the Lebanese delegation's visit to the Soviet Union at a press conference held in the headquarters of the Lebanese-Soviet Friendship Society in Beirut. The conference was attended by delegation members Minister of Tourism Marwan Hamadah, deputies Hashim al-Husayni and Dr Albert Mansur and Lebanese Communist Party Politburo member Karim Muruwwah, as well as a number of society members.

Al-Hafiz read a statement at the press conference which said: We, the ones concerned with the cause, are doing all we can and mobilizing all resources; we make contacts, we meet, we explain and expound, and we establish relations and friendships. All of this is in order to save our country Lebanon from the terrible ordeal it is suffering and from the continuing conspiracy that has been hatched in order to destroy it and dismantle it.

He added: In the recent past we went to the United Nations and the United States in order to defend the south, whose tragedy we consider to be the peak of the Lebanese ordeal and the source of danger to Lebanon's existence. We believe the key to the solution in the south is the key to the solution of all Lebanese problems. Today we have returned from a visit to the Soviet Union, which we regard as a friend and which we have known to stand with us in our just causes, just as it has stood with all the world's downtrodden peoples.

Continuing, he said: Tomorrow and in the days to come we will go to every place in the world where we would feel it is suitable to continue the current attempts to remove the injustice, recover rights and restore security and harmony to this country which has been afflicted by misery and misfortune.

He said: We thank the Lebanese-Soviet Friendship Society for inviting us to visit the Soviet Union, an invitation which we accepted with pleasure. We were determined to exchange views with Soviet officials on affairs pertaining to our country and area and to hold consultations on the practical steps we must take. We also wanted to get acquainted there with current international political events and their impact on our problems because the Soviet Union is a fundamental international power which cannot be ignored when discussing any international problem, particularly those problems concerning our country. Every attempt to exclude or ignore it in any efforts being made have failed and will continue to fail. If cordial visits are something encouraging in normal situations, they are even more necessary in times of difficulty, when there is a need for unity and for clarifying the ambiguous and illuminating the path so that we can clearly see ahead and avoid being misled by propaganda or illusions.

He added: During our stay in Moscow we met with several officials and had useful and valuable talks with them. Then (after a brief sightseeing visit to Leningrad) we went to Soviet Armenia, where we met with senior officials of this republic.

In Moscow we met with second [as published] deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Polyakov who, with [First Deputy Chairman] Kuznetsov, comes immediately after Brezhnev. We also met with Kruglova, a member of the Supreme Soviet and of the CPSU Central Committee. Her position is equivalent to that of minister of state in the Soviet Union, and she is also chairman of the Presidium of the union of Soviet societies for friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries. We also met with Filev, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry [as published]. We also held a long meeting at the Oriental Studies Institute, where Soviet foreign policy is planned on the basis of scientific information and studies. We held talks with the institute director, Primakov, who, in addition to being a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, is also close to government officials and has taken part in East-West talks, international detente talks and talks on the Middle East problem.

During its meetings with the Soviet officials the delegation reviewed the ordeal through which Lebanon is passing and exchanged views with the Soviet side regarding the need to extricate Lebanon from the vicious circle it is trapped in and the attempts to impose partial solutions which are being made in collaboration with Israel, attempts for which further ground is being prepared. Lebanon has paid the highest price for such attempts and for the international conspiracies preventing the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution--which solution could be neither just nor comprehensive if the Soviet Union is kept out of it, or the PLO, which is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

He continued: The delegation reviewed the situation in southern Lebanon and the role the UNIFIL should play in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and subsequent resolutions. The delegation thanked the Soviet Union for its positive stand which led to the passing of the recent resolution, number 501. Despite the fact that as a matter of principle the Soviet Union does not approve of sending UN forces to various parts of the world, it has made this exception and adopted a stand which enabled the Security Council to issue the resolution. But the Lebanese delegation made it clear to the Soviet Union that what matters is the implementation of the resolution, and it asked the Soviet Union to make further efforts for its implementation. The delegation also stressed that there is no contradiction between Lebanese and Palestinian interests: Rather, there is one common objective and one common aggressor, which is Israel. Therefore the Lebanese and the Palestinian must stand side by side in order to confront the dangers threatening us all.

He said: In the Soviet Armenian Republic the delegation was accorded a sympathetic and warm welcome because of the special ties between the Lebanese people and the Armenian people and in view of the relations between Lebanese Armenians and Soviet Armenians.

He added: In the talks with the Armenian side the delegation reviewed the situation in Lebanon and talked about the fundamental contribution the Lebanese Armenian community has made to building this small, beautiful country and to developing this unified state, and to its attaining the highest degree of cultural and economic advancement which, in turn, has contributed to the development and growth of the neighboring Arab area.

Al-Hafiz said: Thus you can see that the Lebanese delegation's visit to the Soviet Union was successful and useful. It was an expression of the friendship existing between the two peoples and countries. The delegation had the opportunity to witness the signing of a protocol of cooperation between the Lebanese-Soviet Friendship Society headed by Dr Albert Mansur and the Soviet-Lebanese Friendship Society headed by RSFSR Minister of Culture Melentyev. The two sides also had the opportunity to exchange views and information.

We have returned with a greater realization and understanding of what is going on in the international arena with regard to the world political situation and the future of our area and country. We can only thank our Soviet friends for their hospitality and warmth and thank the Lebanese-Soviet and Soviet-Lebanese Friendship Societies for the precious opportunity they afforded us.

CSO: 4400/221

NATIONAL MOVEMENT SUPPORTS YEMENI FRONT

PM141541 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report: "National Movement Declares Full Solidarity With North Yemen's National Front"]

[Text] The National Movement has expressed full solidarity with the struggle of the YAR people under the leadership of the National Democratic Front [NDF] and has condemned the campaign of destruction and repression launched by the Yemeni regime in San'a' which opens up the Arabian peninsula to imperialist intervention.

The National Movement's Executive Committee, represented by Executive Secretary General of the Political Bureau Muhsin Ibrahim, and In'am Ra'd, Samir Sabbagh, 'Abdallah al-Amin, Nasir al-As'ad and Albert Farhat, has held a meeting with North Yemen's NDF delegation headed by Sultan Ahmad 'Umar and including Mujahid al-Qahhali, Husni Shukri and Muhammad Mansur. After the meeting the Executive Committee issued the following statement:

"The fraternal people of the YAR have for months been the target of systematic repression and coercion by the reactionary authorities with the overt support of the Saudi reactionaries. The aim is to prevent the Yemeni people from achieving democracy and progress prior to joining the Arab National Liberation Movement's battle of destiny against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots against the entire region.

"The bloody campaign launched by the reactionary regime in San'a' is not really something new because there have been other such campaigns in the past. What makes the present campaign different from the previous ones is its protracted nature and the complete destruction of the villages and economies of five provinces constituting most of the country, not to mention the crimes committed against the masses. With this campaign the San'a' reactionary authorities are violating a number of cease-fire agreements reached with the national opposition represented by the NDF, the latest being that of 29 January 1982. Earlier the authorities turned their back on several agreements providing for a general national reconciliation, for the elimination of all kinds of tension in the country and for the formation of a democratic coalition government based on a minimum joint program.

"The reactionary regime in San'a' has over the past year been plunging North Yemen into an endless whirlpool of fighting, thus threatening security in the area, and particularly the security of the PDRY, with the aim of completing the siege around this steadfast fortress and opening up the Arabian peninsula to imperialist intervention. This imperialist intervention actually began with the implantation of military bases in a number of GCC states and other neighboring reactionary states.

"The Lebanese National Movement, which is struggling jointly with the Palestinian revolution in defense of Lebanon and Palestine, considers the valiant struggle of the Yemeni people in the YAR under the leadership of the NDF to be an integral part of the general Arab struggle against the imperialist-reactionary onslaught in the region. It also considers the Yemeni people's struggle for democracy and unity to be a manifestation of the real interests of the people in both sectors of Yemen.

"While expressing full solidarity with the NDF in North Yemen, the Lebanese National Movement hails the prominent role played by the PDRY in bolstering the general national confrontation and in standing fast against U.S. and Saudi designs in the southern part of the Arabian peninsula. It again calls on the steadfastness and confrontation front to make qualitative shift in its programs and to embrace the important struggle of the Arab progressive forces in Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, the Gulf and the peninsula, and to provide the prerequisites for the success of this confrontation."

CSO: 4400/221

LEBANON

LEBANESE, BULGARIAN CP'S ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

PM130947 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Bulgarian Communist Delegation Departs Beirut; Joint Statement Issued With Lebanese Communist Party"]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Communist Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] have welcomed the uprising of the masses in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan against occupation, repression, and autonomy and Israeli civilian administration plans. They expressed their concern at the escalating imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the independence and sovereignty of the Arab countries.

The two parties condemned the Camp David policy, asserting that "there can be no just and comprehensive solution in the area without Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and the realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights."

This was contained in a statement issued by the two parties following the visit to Lebanon by a BCP delegation, which left Lebanon the day before yesterday.

The statement said that "the two parties noted with great concern the escalating international tension as a result of the U.S. and NATO policies as well as the policy of confrontation and arms race, particularly nuclear armament. The two sides welcomed the policy of the Soviet Union and the countries of the world socialist camp in defense of world peace, national independence, and the peoples' right to self-determination."

The statement added: "Discussing the situation in the Middle East, the two sides noted with great concern the escalation of the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the independence and sovereignty of the Arab countries and the right of their people to liberation, particularly against the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination. The two sides dwelt on the dangers threatening Lebanon, its independence, Arabism and democratic development as a result of the continuing U.S.-backed Israeli aggression on its territory, particularly its southern part, and of conspiracies by the Lebanese fascist forces, backed by Israel and the United States.

"The two sides condemned the Camp David policy, which is contrary to the interest of establishing a just peace in the area, and considered that there can be no just and comprehensive settlement in the area except by ensuring Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and the realization of the Palestinian Arab people's national and inalienable rights, foremost among which is the right to self-determination, to establish an independent state on their own soil and to return to their homeland."

The two sides welcomed "the uprising of the Palestinian people's masses in the West Bank and Gaza and the Syrian people's masses in the occupied Golan against occupation, autonomy and the Israeli civilian administration, as well as against the annexation decision and the imposition of Israeli citizenship on the Golan."

GSO: 4400/221

LEBANON

ISLAMIC COUNCIL ON LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

NC111948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Apr 82

[Text] At 1145 today the Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council and the Consultative Council of the Mufti's office held a joint meeting under the chairmanship of his eminence the Mufti of the Lebanese Republic, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, in the house of his eminence in 'Aramun to discuss the subject of local councils in Beirut. The meeting was attended by [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Hus, Ambassador Mahmud al-Hafiz, Fayiz al-Nusuli, Anis Yasin, Shaykh Khalil al-Mays, Qadi Mustafa Mansur, Muhammad Mansur, Shaykh Taha al-Tabanji, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykhah, Shafiq Abu Dahr, Sharif Subra, 'Izzat Harb, Husayn al-Quwwatili, Faysal Tabbarah, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Hut, and Shaykh Khaldun Husayn 'Araymaq.

At 1345 [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat joined the meeting. After leaving the house of his eminence the Mufti 'Arafat stated: I did not conduct any talks, but I briefed his eminence Mufti Khalid and the brothers about the state of affairs in light of the Israeli military concentrations, movements and threats.

The meeting ended at 1645 and his eminence Mufti Khalid made the following statement: The Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council discussed the issue [the national movement's intention to hold elections for local councils] currently being raised in Lebanon, particularly in Beirut. The discussion dealt extensively with the advantages and disadvantages of this issue. Following the discussions and deliberations on all ideas, the council drew up a detailed report and adopted resolutions which will be read to you by the secretary general of the Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council, 'Izzat Harb. The following is a recording of these resolutions:

[Begin Harb recording] In the name of the merciful and compassionate God: At 1200, Sunday, 17 Jamad al-Akhirah 1402 Hegira, corresponding to 11 April 1982, the Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council resumed its open session under the chairmanship of his eminence the Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid and in the presence of the members of the Consultative Council of the Mufti's office. The council discussed the question of the announcement of the national movement's intention to hold elections for the establishment of local councils in Western Beirut on 25 April.

After hearing a comprehensive statement delivered by the council chairman, his eminence the Mufti of the Lebanese Republic, on the wide-ranging activity he conducted through meetings and contacts with the Islamic and national leaders; after hearing the statements made by the members of the committee entrusted with following up the issue and who had met with the concerned Islamic and national leaders and heard their views for and against these elections; and after deliberating on the grave circumstances through which Lebanon is passing, particularly in the south, the council registers the following:

1. The council maintains that the subject of local council elections, despite its importance, has assumed serious proportions in the most fateful and critical conditions, which are most dangerous for Lebanon and the area, and in an atmosphere of excessive Israeli threats.
2. The council maintains that this subject is political, social and organization. Therefore, the council calls for tackling it only within the framework of national responsibility.
3. The council considers it necessary to safeguard the unitary national principles when coming to tackle the subject without dividing Beirut into eastern and western sectors. Therefore, it calls on all the Lebanese to fervently support this position and consider Beirut as one capital for one homeland.
4. On the basis of the above, the Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council calls on the parties concerned to abide by the following:
 - a. The need to change the negative elements of division into positive Lebanese unitary elements that would immediately be utilized in favor of Lebanese accord in order to strengthen the Lebanese legitimacy without any delay.
 - b. The need to call on the state to organize the services in Beirut on the basis of effective unity and absolute justice and to apply in Eastern Beirut the same organizational measures that are applied in Western Beirut.
 - c. The council calls for abandoning, in these circumstances, the proposed local council elections in Western Beirut. It also calls, with greater forcefulness, for the abolishment of the popular and party organizations which control the public utilities and ports and for an end to the [word indistinct] of forces in Eastern Beirut--those forces which have an effect on the citizens in both the eastern and western area--to enable the state to shoulder its full responsibilities in serving the citizen in a united Beirut and united Lebanon.
 - d. To consider this required unifying organization in Beirut as an approach to inter-Lebanese accord.

The Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council affirms that the National Islamic demands have been and continue to be the same in their principles, essence and aims. The Muslims stand united behind them, undivided by passing differences.

The Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council urges the national movement, which is aware of its responsibilities, particularly in this fateful period, to announce its response to its Islamic call, hoping that the state would also respond to this call in order to put an end to the difference existing between the two situations in the eastern and western areas of Beirut.

Finally, the Supreme Islamic Shari'a Council, out of its sense of national Islamic responsibility and in an effort to respond to the requirements of the delicate circumstances, affirms its determination to continue on its course until the national Islamic demands are realized. [End recording]

CSO: 4400/221

SAUDI ARABIA

DAILY CONDEMNS U.S. ANTI-ARAB POLICY

PM161441 Jidda 'UKKAZ in Arabic 8 Apr 82 p 1

[Article by 'Aziz Diya': "An Observer's View"]

[Text] We must realize that the U.S. policy of vetoing any resolution favoring an Arab cause or condemning Israel and providing for any other step, is more than just a policy designed to please and support Israel. We must see it as a challenge, in addition to being an expression of brutal arrogance and insolence. Insolence of any kind means violation of all accepted traditions and rules of courtesy and caution.

If we review the cases where the United States cast its veto against UN Security Council draft resolutions supporting Arab causes against Israel, we will see that the United States vetoed these draft resolutions in a reckless and even risky manner, intentionally ignoring the Arab states and Arab-American relations and vital interests, as well as the entire international community. This is a strong pointer to a fact which all the Arab states should realize by now. This fact is that the U.S. aim is not only to support Israel but also defy and provoke the Arab states, if not openly insult them, is if to say: This is our position, it will not change, and we challenge you to do anything.

It is really painful, regrettable and soul-destroying to see the Arab states taking one slap in the face after another and one flagrant and bloody Israeli aggression after another anywhere and anytime Israel pleases, with unlimited U.S. support, even at the Security Council and against all principles of right and justice, without so much as lifting a finger against, or rejecting, this open defiance, let alone resisting it by all possible means if necessary.

The United States vetoed the Security Council unanimous resolution against the bestial Israeli measures against the Arabs of the occupied territories. The Arab response was a call for the resumption of the UN General Assembly's emergency session. In most other similar cases, including the case of the Security Council resolution on Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, the maximum the Arab states did was to go to the UN General Assembly to avert a U.S. veto and get resolutions condemning the aggressor and perhaps even nullifying the aggressor's measures. The question is, what is the use of all this in practical terms? What is there to gain from a thousand such resolutions? How far can such resolutions change the painful fact that territories

have been lost and will continue to be lost and that our men, women, and children are being slaughtered like sheep, and all we are doing is nothing more than seeking a Security Council resolution that is vetoed by the United States or a General Assembly resolution that remains for ever mere ink on paper that is put away in the UN archives, as has been the case over the past 30 years.

It has been said that Henry Kissinger told the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat before the Ramadan [October] war that the United States would never change its policy or incline toward Arab rights unless the Arabs dealt with it from a position of strength, unless it felt that one could do something, anything.

It has been said that this is what made al-Sadat prepare for the 10 Ramadan war.

Today we say: What is stopping us from dealing with the United States from a position of strength? We are strong and we, the United States and the whole world are aware of our capabilities. Why should we not use these capabilities or at least warn, just warn, that we have had enough defiance and that the time has come for us to say no?

CSO: 4400/221

SAUDI ARABIA

PAPER CONDEMNS LIBYA'S AL-QADHDHAFI

LD161338 Riyadh SPA in English 1214 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Apr (SPA)--The worldwide response to King Khalid's appeal to show practical solidarity with the Palestinian people and give full backing to their just struggle against the Zionist repression in the occupied Arab lands and Security Council's debate on al-Aqsa shooting, being held at the request of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) was the main topic for editorial comment in Friday's Saudi newspapers.

AL-JAZIRAH strongly condemned rejection of Libyan ruler, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to respond to King Khalid's ardent appeal and let his country participate in showing Arab, Islamic and international solidarity with the Palestinian people against Israel's criminal acts and repression in the occupied Arab lands.

"Al-Qadhdhafi's refusal to let the Libyan people take part in Palestine's solidarity day and protest attack on al-Aqsa mosque had disclosed al-Qadhdhafi's falsehood, hypocrisy and his actual deeds which contradicted his words and deceiving slogans," the paper said.

The paper added every day "Al-Qadhdhafi unveiled his malicious and destructive nature and that his loyalty was only devoted to communism and Zionism with nothing to do with Arab and Islamic issues even if the matter related to an issue of usurped Arab rights and Zionist criminal assaults and desecration on the Islamic shrines.

"The only interpretation to al-Qadhdhafi's anti-Arab and Muslim actions and his fear to let the Libyan people participate in Palestine's solidarity day is his fear to see this demonstration turn into an uprising against his tyrannical rule and his collapsing regime," the paper said.

On the Security Council's debate on al-Aqsa attack and the Islamic world solidarity with the Palestinians in response to King Khalid's call in his capacity as chairman of the Islamic summit conference, 'UKAZ said in his call the Saudi monarch had shown determination of the Arab and Islamic world to liberate our occupied lands and preserve our holy shrines.

"The kingdom's speech in the Council and its request to the international community to be firm and decisive with the Zionist entity stress the need for having practical UN resolutions capable of putting an end to Israel's arrogance and criminal acts" the paper said.

The paper added King Khalid had taken Jerusalem's issue from mere statements and condemnation into practices of joint Islamic action to liberate the occupied lands and preserve the Muslim's holy places.

CSO: 4400/221

SYRIA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH CSSR--Damascus, 8 Apr (SANA)--A number of documents, protocols and economic agreements were signed here this evening between Syria and the CSSR at the conclusion of the second session of the Syrian-CSSR Joint Economic Committee. Among these agreements were a trade exchange protocol between the two countries for 1982-1983, and an implementation program for scientific, technical and training cooperation for the purpose of employing experts from the CSSR and sending Syrian trainees to CSSR. The agreements also included an implementation program within the framework of public health, an implementation protocol within the framework of cultural cooperation and a cooperation agreement in the field of government planning in both countries. They also included a general protocol for the second session of the Syrian-CSSR Joint Committee. Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning, signed for Syria and Bohumil Urban, minister of foreign trade, signed for the CSSR. The Syrian delegation headed by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy premier for economic affairs, is expected to leave Prague for Damascus tomorrow. [Text] [JN082119 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1950 GMT 8 Apr 82]

CSO: 4400/221

TUNISIA

VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS SHAKE UNIVERSITY OF TUNIS

Paris LE MONDE in French 2 Apr 82 p 6

[Text] Tunis--The university campus, particularly the Faculty of Arts and the student residences in Manouba (a suburb of Tunis), have been, during the last 48 hours, the scene of bloody confrontations which resulted in 40 casualties of whom 2 are in comas and 23 arrests among the students.

The confrontations which were of a rarely attained magnitude began on Tuesday 30 March in the Faculty of Arts which has been on strike for 2 weeks over questions of programs and the organization of courses and spread to other establishments on Wednesday.

The disturbance continued to spread, and the escalation of the violence reached its peak on the occasion of the commemoration of the Palestinian "Land Day," which served as a pretext for two antagonistic movements--the Islamic and the patriotic-democratic, of the extreme left--which dominate the university to clash and to engage in a real pitched battle.

At the Faculty of Arts where some masked students not connected with that establishment entered, the university authorities asked police forces to intervene and decided to suspend classes until the return from the spring vacation on 15 April.

The absence of student union structures aggravates the situation. Actually, the General Union of Tunisian Students (UGET) has not in fact existed for about 10 years; it has been contested by generations of students because it was not representative.

In a press conference, Minister of Scientific Research and Higher Education Abdelaziz Bendhia stigmatized "this escalation of violence in the university, which tends to become commonplace." He again recalled that "the government and professors were well-disposed towards getting out of the impasse and defusing the crisis of the General Union of Tunisian Students." However, for the first time, the minister of higher education brought up the possibility of "seeing the birth of several student organizations to represent the students."

CSO: 4519/160

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